

HONORING THE NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF INVENTORS**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Academy of Inventors, which was founded at the University of South Florida in Tampa in 2010. Working in collaboration with the university, the mission of the National Academy of Inventors is to recognize and encourage inventors, add to the visibility of innovation and technology stemming from the university, and to educate and encourage innovative students to create and patent inventions that are beneficial to all of society.

I am certainly proud of the research under way in my backyard at the University of South Florida. More importantly, their efforts are training our nation's future researchers and innovators to keep the United States on the cutting edge, particularly in the health field. In fact, USF was among 14 universities listed in the top 300 organizations worldwide to receive patents from the United States Patent and Trade Office in 2010.

Though USF houses the National Academy of Inventors, universities and nonprofit research institutions throughout the nation and world are also invited to form local chapters, and inventors affiliated with the academic community supporting the local chapter, who have had a patent issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, are eligible to join. Thus far, 29 local chapters have formed.

I truly applaud the work of the National Academy of Inventors for encouraging teachers, faculty, and students to push their research efforts and find new and better technology and solutions. I look forward to watching them continue to expand and set a national climate favorable to the research and entrepreneurship community.

ON REINTRODUCING THE WILDLIFE
VETERINARIANS EMPLOYMENT
AND TRAINING ACT (WILDLIFE
VET ACT)**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Wildlife Veterinarians Employment and Training Act (Wildlife VET Act). This legislation will develop affordable and well qualified opportunities for individuals who are seeking to become wildlife veterinarians, spur job growth, and promote robust public health policy.

Wildlife veterinarians are the primary source of essential health care for and management of wild animals in their natural habitat and in captivity. Not only do they preserve natural resources and animal lives, but they help protect human health by preventing, detecting, and responding to exotic and dangerous diseases.

With the intensification of globalization and climate change, along with a growing interface between humans, livestock, and wildlife, the threat posed by emerging infectious diseases to humans and wildlife keeps increasing. Con-

trolling pandemic and large-scale outbreaks of disease has become more problematic.

Furthermore, wildlife veterinarians have the resources and expertise necessary to help respond to environmental disasters and address short-term and long-term impacts on wildlife and their habitats. Wildlife veterinarians have proven to be essential to the rescue and rehabilitation efforts in the Gulf of Mexico region following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill that began on April 20, 2010.

In spite of these threats to both wildlife and public health, the United States faces a shortage of positions for wildlife veterinarians. In addition, veterinarian graduates owe an average of \$130,000 in student loans, and salaries for wildlife professionals are relatively low compared to companion animal medicine. Lower salaries, combined with high educational debt and the small number of positions available, discourage students from becoming wildlife veterinarians. The number of practical trainings and formal educational programs specializing in wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine are also insufficient.

My bill will directly address these issues which dissuade veterinarians from practicing wildlife medicine. It will contribute to the national job creation effort by funding new positions for wildlife veterinarians and will ensure that veterinary students find jobs upon graduation. The bill will also limit the amount of educational debt for students while providing incentives to study and practice wildlife veterinary medicine through the establishment of scholarships and loan repayment programs. Lastly, my legislation will advance education by helping schools develop pilot curricula specializing in wildlife veterinary medicine and by expanding the number of practical training programs available to students.

Mr. Speaker, we have reached a point in our history when we cannot ignore the importance of protecting America's wildlife. Wild animals are a very important part of our commonly held natural resources and contribute to maintaining a balanced ecosystem. With an increasing number of endangered species, the introduction of invasive non-native species, and more infectious disease threats, wildlife veterinarians must be placed at the core of our efforts and be given the resources and recognition necessary to protect both animal and human lives.

I urge my colleagues to extend a helping hand to America's veterinarians by supporting this important piece of legislation.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF ELLEN BERNSTEIN, NA-
TIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE LA-
DIES AUXILIARY AND JEWISH
WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Elaine Bernstein, National President of the Ladies Auxiliary Department of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV), on the occasion of her official visit to the dedicated members of the Department of Florida Ladies Auxiliary. The gathering

of these dedicated advocates for our nation's veterans is truly a cause for celebration.

Jewish Americans have a long, rich history of service in our armed forces. Over half a million Jewish Americans fought for the United States in World War II, and 11,000 of them perished while fighting for this country. Jewish Americans have served in Korea, Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm, and countless other missions around the globe. They are among the brave young men and women who served in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks, and who are serving in Afghanistan as we speak. For the past 83 years, JWV's mission has been to support for these heroes, strengthen the American values of liberty and equality, and to combat bigotry and anti-Semitism.

Elaine Bernstein has played a vital role in advancing JWV's mission across the country. She began her career of volunteerism at the tender age of four, when she became a mascot for her local Auxiliary junior division. After a lifetime of dedicated service, Elaine was elected President of JWV in August of 2011. I am humbled to welcome this accomplished leader to Florida's 19th district, which I am proud to say is home to one of our nation's largest chapters of the Jewish War Veterans of America.

It is a privilege to represent members of the Department of Florida Ladies Auxiliary, who share the belief that in America, no veteran should become a forgotten hero. Because of their work with the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, our people will continue to honor the contributions of the Jewish American men and women who for centuries have not only shaped our national culture, but defended our people in times of great challenge.

BIKERS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, over 3 million cases of child abuse are reported every year in the United States; some reports involve multiple children. These children are 11 times more likely to be arrested for criminal behavior as juveniles, and they are 2.7 times more likely to be arrested for violent and criminal charges as an adult. One-third of these same children are likely to grow up to abuse or neglect their own children. Child abuse is an ugly reality in the fabric of our society, and abuse against children is among the most heinous crimes committed in our nation. I'd like to honor a group of individuals who are dedicated to establishing security for these children, while demonstrating a new standard of sacrificial giving.

Bikers Against Child Abuse, BACA was founded by John Paul Lily, a clinical sociologist. Mr. Lily wanted to bring an abused eight year old boy out of his shell and succeeded by bringing him into his circle of motorcycle friends. This group of unconventional child advocates allowed for this young boy to experience a second chance at an unhindered childhood. Soon, Mr. Lily was inspired to organize a ride to visit mistreated children and to welcome them into the biker "family." This inaugural ride had 27 riders, but word spread